

## **Opening Remarks for Veolia Public Hearing**

Good afternoon everybody. My name is David Ogulei and I am an environmental engineer at the Chicago office of the EPA.

Veolia's Sauget, Illinois facility is a treatment, storage and disposal facility which accepts waste for disposal through incineration. Veolia receives containers and bulk shipments of hazardous and solid wastes; analyzes and transfers the waste to temporary storage facilities; and processes and incinerates it in three combustion units. The waste that Veolia receives is varied, and can contain differing amounts of hazardous materials.

Veolia operates under a Clean Air Act Title V permit because it is a major source of hazardous air pollutant emissions and is subject to one of the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants. As I will describe in more detail in a few minutes, EPA is proposing to renew the Title V operating permit for Veolia ES Technical Solutions L.L.C.

### **Background**

EPA issued a Title V permit to Veolia on September 12, 2008, and the permit became effective on October 12, 2008. Prior to issuing the permit, EPA reviewed historical metal feedrate data supplied by Veolia. The term "feedrate" describes the amount of waste that Veolia burns in its combustion units. EPA concluded that the data provided by Veolia were not reliable for determining feedrate limits (also called operating parameter limits or OPLs) for heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, arsenic, chromium and beryllium. Feedrate limits set the maximum amount of specific types of waste - here, heavy metals - that Veolia can feed into its incinerators per hour.

Because EPA found the data unreliable, EPA issued Veolia's permit without including feedrate limits for mercury, lead, cadmium, arsenic,

chromium or beryllium. However, as required by the federal regulations governing hazardous waste combustors, EPA included in the permit a compliance schedule that required Veolia to test all three combustors to develop feedrate limits for emissions of mercury, low-volatile metals (that is, arsenic, chromium and beryllium) and semi-volatile metals (that is, lead and cadmium).

The permit required that Veolia submit its test results and proposed feedrate limits to EPA by September 26, 2008. If EPA found the proposed limits acceptable, EPA would propose to reopen the permit to incorporate the limits developed from the required performance tests, and would take public comment on the limits at that time.

Veolia conducted comprehensive performance tests in August and September 2008. On October 10, 2008, Veolia submitted to EPA the results of those tests, and an application for a modification to its Title V permit to incorporate feedrate limits for mercury, semi-volatile metals and low-volatile metals, as specified in the compliance schedule.

However, Veolia withdrew the modification application on December 13, 2012 after receiving notice that EPA intended to deny the application and to reopen the permit to add feedrate limits that EPA considered to be supported by the available performance test data.

### **So, what is EPA proposing?**

EPA is proposing to reopen the Title V permit for Veolia, using EPA's Clean Air Act authority to reopen permits for cause, to incorporate heavy metal feedrate limits that EPA considers to be supported by available performance test data. This reopening is necessary to ensure that the permit assures compliance with Title V of the Act and its implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 71, and the National Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Hazardous Waste Combustors, 40 C.F.R. Part 63, Subpart EEE.

EPA also is proposing to supplement monitoring requirements to assure compliance with the proposed feedrate limits.

Under the proposed monitoring terms, Veolia is required to install and operate a multi-metals continuous emissions monitoring system (CEMS) on one of its incinerators (Unit #3) for at least one year. A multi-metals CEMS tests the air emitted during the incineration process to determine the amount of mercury, semi-volatile metals and low-volatile metals in the air, and reports the results approximately once every fifteen minutes.

The test results will help U.S. EPA ensure the feedrate limits in the permit are adequate to protect air quality. After a year of running the CEMS, U.S. EPA believes it will have enough information to determine if the feedrate limits are appropriate, and Veolia will not be required to use the multi-metals CEMS.

EPA has also proposed to improve Veolia's feedstream analysis procedures. The additional analysis procedures proposed by EPA would supplement any other analysis procedures for mercury, semi-volatile metals and low-volatile metals as specified in Veolia's feedstream analysis plan (FAP) and would supersede any less stringent provisions in the FAP.

Incorporation of the additional feedstream analysis procedures into the Title V permit would not eliminate Veolia's obligation to maintain an adequate FAP, consistent with federal regulations for hazardous waste combustors.

As Ms. Damico noted, we will not answer any questions or respond to any comments today. However, after the close of the comment period, we will respond in writing to each written or oral comment filed today, and any comments submitted before the close of the public comment period. Our responses will be contained in a response to comments document that we will distribute to each person who files comments or requests to receive a copy of the final permit. Please note that only

portions of the permit that are being changed because of the proposed action are open for comment during the public comment period.